Mayor Mike McGinn 2011–2012 Proposed Budget

September 27, 2010

New Economic Reality

- Revenue growth rate has dropped substantially & is not expected to go back to where it was any time soon.
- Days of one-time fixes for balancing our budget are over.
- Facing shortfalls across all our operating funds.

Living Within Our Means

- ▶ 2011–2012 Proposed Budget is sustainable.
- ▶ 2011–2012 Proposed Budget prepares us for the fiscal reality of the coming years.
- ▶ 2011-2012 Proposed Budget lays the groundwork for a longer-term transformation of City government.

Meets Seattle Residents' Priorities

Provides:

- safe neighborhoods;
- strong safety net for our most vulnerable residents;
- opportunities for Seattle's children and youth to thrive and succeed;
- access to high-quality cultural and recreational opportunities; and
- an infrastructure system that will support healthy commerce and efficiently carry people, goods, and information into the future.

Budget Approach

- Find ongoing cost-savings discontinued various bodies of work and eliminated positions.
- Find internal and administrative savings assumes labor cost savings & other inflationary roll backs, consolidate functions, renegotiate purchasing contracts & reduce discretionary costs, including travel.
- Streamline management functions & expand span of control by eliminating or reclassifying seniorlevel positions.
- Avoid increases in general taxes; instead target revenue increases toward users of various City services.

Results

- Two-thirds of budget gap closed by expenditure savings.
- One third of budget gap closed through revenues.
- Judicious use of one-time cuts; 2012 budget is balanced.
- We're preserving reserves.
- We're funding the Emergency Subfund to the greatest amount allowed under Washington State law.
- We're increasing the total value of the Rainy Day Fund to just over \$11 million.

Big Picture

- 2011 Proposed Budget totals \$3.9 billion, including the City's \$888 million General Fund.
- Eliminates 294 positions (net) or 2.67% of the City's total work force.
- Cuts include 64 senior level positions or nearly 22% of overall position cuts (i.e., executives, managers, and strategic advisors).
- Cuts result in 214 layoffs, effective January 4, 2011.

Police & Fire

- By redeploying our work force, we'll have more police officers on the street. The Proposed Budget supports an all-time high of 585 sworn officers assigned to patrol in 2011, up from the current record-high levels of 555 officers in 2010.
- Our current firefighting strength of 990 active personnel is maintained with no reductions to companies assigned to neighborhood fire stations.

Human Services

By capturing savings in overhead costs and curtailing inflationary increases, the Human Services Department is able to preserve funding for most contracts with community partners who deliver the actual services.

Parks & Recreation

- Preserves funding to keep swimming pools open and lifeguards at all of the City's public beaches.
- Continues operation of 15 of the 22 wading pools located throughout the city.
- 20 community centers will provide the same operating hours as in 2010.
- Use of remaining six community centers will be limited.
 - The Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool will temporarily close for two years to allow for construction of a new community center and pool.
 - Five other community centers Alki, Ballard, Laurelhurst, Queen Anne, and Green Lake – will have reduced operating hours.

Libraries

- The library is making 8.5% in cuts yet keeping all current hours of operation at 2010 levels by restructuring management of branches.
- Library's systemwide one-week closure (the week before Labor Day) - first instituted in 2009 - will continue in 2011.

Neighborhoods

- All 6 non-payment Neighborhood Service Centers and the West Seattle payment and information center will be closed.
- Services at West Seattle site will be consolidated with the nearby Delridge Service Center.
- The remaining 6 payment sites (Delridge, University District, Central District, Lake City, Southeast, and Ballard) will remain open.

Rates

- Seattle City Light rates will increase by 4.3% in 2011 and 4.2% in 2012.
- Solid Waste rates will increase by 7.5% in 2011.
- Drainage rates will increase by 12.8% in 2011 or about \$2.19 per month for an average household.
- Wastewater rates will increase by 4% in 2011, or about \$1.87 per month for an average household, not including an anticipated pass through from King County for wastewater treatment costs that is historically considered by Council outside of the budget process.
- Water rates will increase approximately 3.5% in 2011.

Parking Rates

- The hourly parking meter rate increases by \$1.50 an hour downtown and 50 cents in other parts of the city.
- Paid parking hours are extended by two hours until 8 p.m. (Monday Saturday), and paid parking is instituted on Sundays (11 a.m. 6 p.m.).

Increased fees include:

- cat licenses;
- the Library's daily fine rate and rate to print from Library computers;
- security system false alarms triggering a police response; and
- fees charged at the following Parks and Recreation facilities: Japanese Garden, Camp Long, Amy Yee Tennis Center, swimming pools, athletic fields, boat ramps, community meeting rooms and gymnasiums, special events – ceremonies, picnics, and the Langston Hughes Performing Arts.

Looking Ahead

- By making tough decisions that focus on ongoing budget changes, Mayor McGinn's 2011-2012 Proposed Budget makes significant strides toward putting the City's services and finances on a more sustainable path.
- Assuming the economic and revenue forecasts hold, reductions and revenue changes assumed for the General Fund in 2011 will be sufficient to maintain a balanced budget for 2012 without additional reductions.